

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

I, Theresa Allen, speak as a United States Citizen who witnesses the disparities in healthcare in our State almost daily as a Registered Nurse.

We all know the undocumented population is disempowered regarding safe living places, access to food, safe working environments that pays a living wage and access to healthcare. Today you have the power to change this gross limitation of a human right, access to safe and affordable healthcare which is possible with the support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve.

I have experienced undocumented workers who were not given masks and Personal Protective equipment during the pandemic, but were expected to go out daily to take care of the elders and babies of Connecticut Residents and then had no access to health coverage when they got sick!

I have worked with undocumented clients who died from a treatable cancer, and lung disease because no access to healthcare, no screenings were done.

I have witnessed human beings who die in the hospital and ICU's after treatable illnesses like pneumonia, hypertension, and diabetes, because no access to healthcare.

We behave as if undocumented workers were coming to Connecticut for vacation and folly. They are here, the backbone of our low wage work force in elder care, childcare and the backbreaking day labor workforce. They are on the front lines without protection. They are here because we have looted many of their countries wealth and resources as our colonies by gutting their rights as worker with our "free trade agreements", supporting coups, government overthrows, weapon sales, and drug cartels.

Covid has made clear the for profit health system does not care for the most vulnerable. Undocumented people need to have access to health care, as right to prevent illness and keep our communities safe. We need to support SB284 so we can remain human in these most challenging times and not allow children to age out of coverage at 9 years of age.

Let your support of SB284 begin changing this injustice by moving the state to health for all with open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Theresa Allen RN, HPCN, CCM, BC.